



# The chatterbox

March - June 2019 Leisure Guide

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## Hamilton County Commissioners

Christine Altman  
Steven Dillinger  
Mark Heirbrandt

## Hamilton County Council

Ken Alexander      Amy Massillamany  
Brad Beaver      Rick McKinney  
Fred Glynn      Steve Schwartz  
Jeff Hern

## Hamilton County Park Board

Stephen Andrews      Susan Peterson  
Dr. Judith Campbell      Andrew (Terry) Prather  
Jan DeJarnatt      Larry Roudebush  
Mark McCauley      Philip Shelby

## Mission Statement

The Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department exists to serve the leisure and recreation needs of its residents and tourists, and to enhance the quality of life in the county. We strive to preserve and provide high-quality, passive parks and facilities, to offer natural resource education and services, and to be recognized as a leader and resource for our community and its citizens in the pursuit of living an environmentally responsible lifestyle.

## Park Board Meetings

The Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Board meetings are held on the third Monday of each month, except holidays. They are held at 6:30 p.m. in the Cool Creek Nature Center auditorium, located at 2000 -1 East 151st Street, Carmel, IN 46033. The meetings are open to the public.

## Park Hours

All parks operated by Hamilton County Parks and Recreation are open 365 days a year from dawn to dusk. Some sections of the park may be closed due to special events, shelter reservations or flooding. Please refer to *The Chatterbox* or call the administrative office for details.

## www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com

For info on other parks visit [www.hampa.org](http://www.hampa.org) and [www.inpra.org](http://www.inpra.org).

**On the cover:** Koteewi Lake *Recreational Waters*, located in Strawtown Koteewi Park, will open to guests seeking fishing and quiet aquatic activities this summer. The project that formed the body of water, thirteen years in the making, required removing tons of overburden, and relocating it for the purpose of creating the popular tubing hill - Koteewi Run. More details can be found on page five.

Cover photo by Al Patterson

## Administrative Office • 317-770-4400

15513 S. Union St., Carmel, IN 46033

Mon. – Fri., 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Please call the numbers listed for holiday hours of park offices and facilities.

Director, Allen Patterson  
[allen.patterson@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:allen.patterson@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

Deputy Director, B. Christopher Stice  
[chris.stice@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:chris.stice@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

Resource Development Specialist, Don Nicholls  
[don.nicholls@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:don.nicholls@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

Office Manager, Alesa Cox  
[alesa.cox@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:alesa.cox@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

Admin Technical Coordinator, Carrie Melillo  
[carrie.melillo@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:carrie.melillo@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

Community Outreach/Volunteer Coordinator, Steve Sneath  
[steve.sneath@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:steve.sneath@hamiltoncounty.in.gov) or  
[volunteer@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:volunteer@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

Special Events Coordinator, Christopher Gullion  
[christopher.gullion@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:christopher.gullion@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

## Cool Creek Nature Center • 317-774-2500

2000 -1 E. 151st St., Carmel, IN 46033

Mon. – Sat., 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Sun., 1 – 5 p.m.

Superintendent of Natural Resources and Education,  
Amanda Smith  
[amanda.smith@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:amanda.smith@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

Naturalist, Dan Popiela  
[dan.popiela@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:dan.popiela@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

## Taylor Center of Natural History • 317-774-2574

12308 Strawtown Ave., Noblesville, IN 46060

Mon. – Sat., 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Sun., 1 – 5 p.m.

Regional Parks Operations Manager, Bruce Oldham  
[bruce.oldham@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:bruce.oldham@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

Historical Resource Specialist, Christy Brocken  
[christy.brocken@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:christy.brocken@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

## White River Campground • 317-770-4430

11299 E. 234th St., Cicero, IN 46034

Season: Apr. 15 – Oct. 31

Office hours:

Mon. – Thurs., 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Fri. and Sat., 8:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Sun. 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Regional Parks Operations Manager, Bruce Oldham  
[bruce.oldham@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:bruce.oldham@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

Office Supervisor, Kris Cage  
[kris.cage@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:kris.cage@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

## Coxhall Gardens • 317-774-2582

11677 Towne Rd., Carmel, IN 46032

Dawn – Dusk

Coxhall Gardens Park Manager, Andy Kingsley  
[andy.kingsley@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:andy.kingsley@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

Park Manager Assistant, Lori Hacker  
[lori.hacker@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:lori.hacker@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

Proud Member of:



## Welcome to the March - June 2019 edition of *The Chatterbox Leisure Guide*.

There are a couple of things I would like to start off with.

First, I would like to recognize the loss of a great supporter of our park department. In January of this year, Steve Terry passed away. Steve and his wife Sharon have been fixtures at so many of our park department events and fundraisers through the years. Their dedication and support have been limitless. We look forward to more great times with Sharon, but I just had to make sure Steve's involvement didn't go unrecognized. Steve's wit and smile filled every room he was in. Thank you and RIP Steve Terry. Second, I would like to thank all of you who showed up in record numbers this winter to support Koteewi Run Seasonal Slopes. The season started out on the warm side of the thermometer for our operator Brian Cooley and OEI, but cold finally came and so did all of you! I am very excited for what this coming spring and summer have in store for Koteewi Range, Koteewi Aerial Adventure, and K-Trails. If your support this winter was any indication, our other partners, who you can read more about in the following pages, have big years in store for them as well. Please make that happen. See page eleven for more information on all of these great facilities.



Director Al Patterson

Speaking of big years, this year marks an important anniversary for one of Hamilton County's favorite summertime traditions. The Cool Creek Concert Series, Hamilton County's longest standing summer concert series, is celebrating its 25th anniversary with yet another stellar six concert line up. That's right, twenty-five years of the county's most beautiful concert backdrop and being *In Concert with Nature!* Make sure to check out our concert schedule on the back cover and save every date. Our concerts are fun for the whole family!

How many of you have you dreamed of playing golf at Crooked Stick Golf Course? Well, now you can! The Friends of Hamilton County Parks, Inc. has announced they are hosting a golf outing this fall at Crooked Stick, home of so many epic national professional golf championships. See more about this event on page nineteen and mark your calendar for this great opportunity, September 16th, and make sure you are *On Par for Parks!*

Last but certainly not least, what would another year be without opening another great amenity at Strawtown Koteewi Park? We may never know. 2019 is no different! Plans are being made now for the grand opening of Koteewi Lake, a new twenty-acre recreational lake for boating (*electric trolling motors only*) and fishing. We are partnering again with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, who will help us patrol, monitor, and manage the lake for the enjoyment of yet another group of recreational enthusiasts. If the picture on the cover and the information on page five don't make you want to hit the water, I'm not quite sure what will!

### SEE YOU IN THE PARKS!

*Al Patterson,*

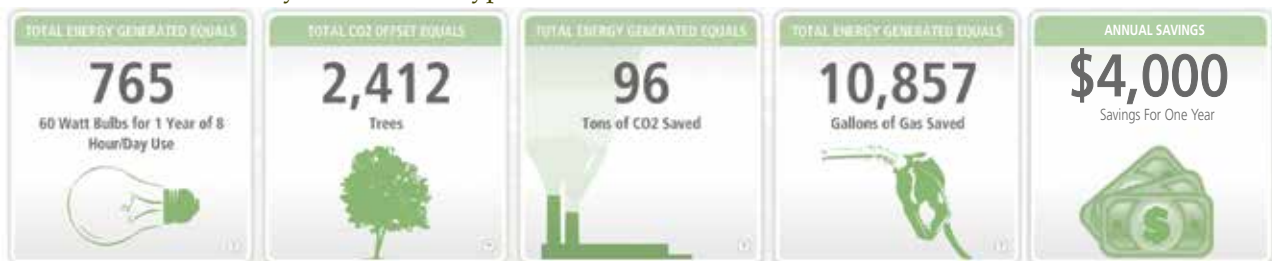
Allen W. Patterson, CPRP

Director, Hamilton County

Department of Parks and Recreation

## Solar Panels at the Cool Creek Nature Center Update

View the energy generated by our solar panels on the roof of the Cool Creek Nature Center. Visit [www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com) and click on the *Cool Creek Solar Panels* link!



Snapshot taken January 26, 2019. Data generated since September 2, 2010

# Cool Creek Nature Center



## Visit the Cool Creek Nature Center!

Annually, more than 50,000 people visit the nature center! Our exhibits, designed and created by our staff, change seasonally. Additionally, a free daily craft is offered every two weeks, scavenger hunts are available every day, and the Wildlife Viewing Area and Greenhouse are also available. There is ALWAYS something new to explore at the Cool Creek Nature Center. While you are here, be sure to allow time for a nature hike and a stop at our popular playground and Nature Play Area! We hope you will make plans to stop in sometime this season! For more information, please call us at 317-774-2500.

**Hours:** Monday – Saturday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm Sunday 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

**Cost:** Free

**PLEASE NOTE:** The nature center is closed on April 19 and 21; May 7 and 27.



Mission | Monarch

Hamilton County Parks is on a mission to help monarchs. Join Cool Creek Nature Center in learning about monarchs and actively helping them!

Did you know monarch butterflies make one of the longest migrations of any species, flying over 3000 miles from North America to very specific forests in the mountains of Mexico? Monarch butterfly populations steeply declined over the last decades because of loss of habitat for native plants, expanded use of pesticides and reductions in their overwintering grounds.

We can all help by planting milkweed – the only plant that monarch caterpillars eat! Protect them by restricting use of pesticides in your yard and garden. Our efforts will not only help monarchs but are beneficial to many native insects, birds and animals. You can pick up Common Milkweed seeds for free at the nature center!

## Spring Exhibit: Spring on a Wing

Birds are all around us, yet few people realize the large diversity found in Indiana or know about the astonishing habits of these amazing feathered dynamos! Put a “spring” in your step as you “migrate” to the Cool Creek Nature Center to learn more about these creatures. Information about specific birds will be featured as well as general bird-related facts about conservation, nesting, and habitats.

**Dates:** March 18-June 2  
(Please note when we are closed for holidays.)

## Summer Exhibit: Summer Sense-ations

We will be celebrating many of nature’s most SENSE-ATIONAL things including hummingbirds, butterflies, lightning bugs, flowers, frogs, and other delightful creatures! Come inside, cool off, and enjoy exploring and learning about the amazing things that fill the summer sky, scent the warm air, and add musical fancy to this magical season!

**Exhibit Opening:** June 17

# Pajama-Rama

Put on your cutest pair of pajamas, grab your favorite teddy bear, pack up a blanket, and join us for Pajama-Rama! Families looking for a fun program to enjoy with their toddlers and preschoolers will love the music educator from Moriah Music, who will lead us in songs and stories about some of our favorite animals.

**Dates:** March 8, April 5, May 3, June 7

**Time:** 7:00 pm

**Ages:** Best for families with children ages 1-7

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** CCNC

**Pre-registration:** Preferred. Register by calling 317-774-2500 or emailing [cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov).



Strawtown Koteewi Park

## KOTEEWI LAKE

### The Latest Addition to Strawtown Koteewi Park!

This summer, Koteewi Lake - *Recreational Waters*, is set to open and offer adventures of the aquatic nature! The twenty-acre body of water will provide ample fishing challenges for serious sportsman, as well as novice anglers. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources will monitor the lake – and a valid fishing license will be required. And while swimming is not permitted, quiet boating activities – canoeing, kayaking and sailing – will allow casual navigation and enjoyment of nearby wildlife. The boat ramp will accommodate a variety of watercraft (*use of electric trolling motors only*). Lakeside, you'll find free public parking, as well as a shelter available on a first come - first served basis. Visit [myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://myhamiltoncountyparks.com) and watch for details regarding the opening of Koteewi Lake this summer!

Coming this Season:

## Native Plants for Sale at the Cool Creek Nature Center Greenhouse

One of the most important things we as Hoosiers can do for our environment is to plant native species that support our ecosystem. To aid in this mission, a select number of native plants from trusted growers will be for sale through the growing season in the greenhouse at the Cool Creek Nature Center. Native plants are well adapted to our area because they've evolved here, and they support our entire ecosystem. The plants have not been treated with pesticides and are priced for the primary purpose of providing our customers with native plants for their home landscapes. Our staff is knowledgeable and can help with planting recommendations and with further education. Quantities and species will vary due to what our suppliers have available.

Please contact us at 317-774-2500 or email us at [cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov) for information regarding what species we are selling, or any other questions related to our sale.

**Dates:** Plant delivery is based on our grower's supply. Typically, we are at full inventory by May 20. Please call the nature center in May to inquire about our inventory and shipments. Sale will run through October 31.

**Cost:** Trees \$25 / Shrubs \$20 / Flowers & Grasses \$7

**Location:** Cool Creek Nature Center Greenhouse during nature center hours



## Spring Break Programs at Cool Creek Nature Center



Every weekday during Spring Break  
(March 29 - April 7) at 11:00 am

**Ages:** Best for school-aged children

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** CCNC

**Pre-registration:** Not Required

### Celebrate Spring with Silly Safaris

Silly Safaris will take us on an entertaining trip. We will learn about some of the interesting spring animals in our area and around the world. Silly Safaris will share some of these amazing adaptations and silly characteristics!

**Date:** Friday, March 29

**Time:** 11:00 am

### Indiana Wild: Animals in your Backyard

There is a lot more going on in our yards and neighborhoods than we realize. Many interesting critters share the same space. Come learn about our nature neighbors!

**Date:** Wednesday, April 3

**Time:** 11:00 am

### Rainforest Animals

Learn about the animals of the world's rainforest with Snakehead Ed. He will bring several exotic, tropical animals to show to the crowd.



**Date:** Thursday, April 4

**Time:** 11:00 am

### HooSier Owls

Who-who is sharing our woods? Swoop in to find out as Mark Booth, Director of Take Flight Wildlife Education, brings several of his owls to share with the audience.

**Date:** Friday, April 5

**Time:** 11:00 am

# Park Programs

## World Water Day

We use water every day! We cannot live without it. How does it get to our faucets? Where does it go when we are finished with it? Could we run low, or worse, run out of water? Dive in with us to celebrate our precious Indiana water resources and find out how it is connected with the entire world! Dress for the weather, as we will be going outside, weather permitting.

**Date:** Friday, March 22

**Time:** 1:00 - 3:00 pm

**Ages:** Best for school-aged children

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** CCNC

**Pre-registration:** Preferred. Register by calling 317-774-2500 or emailing [cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov).

## Homeschool Hikers

Plan a break from the books to learn about nature and get your kids outside. We will discuss a specific topic and then explore the outdoors. Kids that spend time in nature are happier, healthier and smarter!

**Ages:** Best for school-aged children

**Location:** CCNC

**Pre-registration:** Preferred. Register by calling 317-774-2500 or emailing [cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov).

## Nature Journaling

A whole new way of looking at the world around us!

**Date:** Tuesday, March 19

**Time:** 1:00 pm

**Location:** CCNC

## Great Blue Herons are Nesting- Come Observe the Rookery

**Date:** Tuesday, April 16

**Time:** 1:00 pm

**Location:** RP



## Nature Play Days!

Let's get outside; summer is here! Time to get out and play! Hamilton County Parks supports the Indiana Children and Nature Network's (ICAN) efforts to get kids outside by hosting Nature Play Days in several of our parks the week of June 10. Bring your kids to explore the parks, play on the playgrounds, and watch for wildlife. Bring a lunch and have a picnic if you like. Our staff will bring bubbles and other easy outdoor activities. Come and join the fun. Look for more Nature Play Days around the state at [indianachildrenandnature.org](http://indianachildrenandnature.org).

**Ages:** All

**Cost:** Free

**Pre-registration:** Not Required



**Cool Creek Park** - Come and visit our NEW Nature Play Area. This area features natural play elements in a shaded area. It is designed to encourage unstructured play in a nature setting.

**Date:** Monday, June 10

**Time:** 10:00 am

**Location:** CCP (meet at the Nature Play Area)

**River Road Park** - Play on the archaeology-inspired playground and see the early Native American interactive display. Wander through the prairie to the woods and river.

**Date:** Tuesday, June 11

**Time:** 10:00 am

**Location:** RRP (meet at the restrooms)

**Geist Park** - Visit the headwaters of Geist Reservoir on a peaceful hike along Fall Creek. We'll watch for birds, turtles and check out the wetlands. We have a new playground!

**Date:** Thursday, June 13

**Time:** 10:00 am

**Location:** GP (meet at the playground)

**Potter's Bridge** - Walk across the historic covered bridge! Check out the river on a walk through the woods. Play on the playground.

**Date:** Friday, June 14

**Time:** 10:00 am

**Location:** PBP (meet at the playground picnic table)

## Children's Garden Tour at Coxhall Gardens



Take a tour of the Children's Garden at Coxhall Gardens and discover the inspiration behind this magical little spot. All sorts of ideas went into designing this children's area, and our naturalist will let you in on the story as we walk around and "play." This program will meet at the entrance of the Children's Garden.

**Dates:** Thursday, March 21

Thursday, April 18

Thursday, May 16

Thursday, June 20

**Time:** 11:00 am

**Ages:** Parents and their children

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** CHG

**Pre-registration:** Not Required

## Storytime

### at Cool Creek Park

Spring is on its way and the animals are staying warm and cozy at the nature center. Join us for a fun nature-inspired storytime and a nature-related kids craft.

**Date:** Wednesday, March 6

**Time:** 10:30 am

**Ages:** Best for preschoolers ages 3 to 5

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** CCNC

**Pre-registration:** Required.

Register by calling 317-774-2500 or emailing [cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov).



# Earth & Arbor Day Open House

As you celebrate Earth and Arbor Days, we hope you will include a visit to the nature center for an open-house style celebration of our wonderful planet! Earth Day and Arbor Day crafts will be available throughout the day, various native trees in bare-root seedling form will be available for free, milkweed seed packets will be available, a reading of "The Lorax", and two fun hikes will be offered. While you are here, we hope you will enjoy our exhibits which can give you ideas on ways you can make your yard more nature friendly.

## Dr. Seuss' "The Lorax" Reading

Arbor Day wouldn't be complete without a reading of Dr. Seuss' "The Lorax!" Kids and kids at heart will enjoy this classic story and learn how the Lorax continues to teach others how to "speak for the trees." We will meet inside the nature center for this story reading.

**Time:** 10:00 am

## Spring Wildflower Walk

Walk with a naturalist along the wooded trails to enjoy the beautiful blossoms in the park. Don't miss out as these enchanting spring ephemerals show off their beauty for a limited time. This walk will begin inside the nature center.

**Time:** 11:00 am

## Native Pollinator Hike - The Native Bees are Buzzing!

We'll briefly meet inside the nature center then go outside to spot native bees, pet a bumble bee, and see the action on the wildflowers. We will also spot some of the native bee huts that have been placed in the park.

**Time:** 1:00 pm

**Date:** Saturday, April 27  
**Time:** 10:00 am – 5:00 pm  
(nature center hours)

**Cost:** Free

**Ages:** All

**Location:** CCNC

**Pre-registration:** Not Required



## Beginning Bird Hikes

Birds are fascinating and watching them can be an awe-inspiring experience. Catching a glimpse of these gorgeous creatures however can be frustrating, and learning how to identify all of them can be overwhelming! Join our naturalist staff and other guest leaders (when available) Sunday and Wednesday mornings and we will learn together. This will be a great opportunity for bird-watchers of all levels. You may begin anytime during the season and come as often as you like. Pre-registration is not required. Don't forget your binoculars!

### Cool Creek Park

**Dates:** March 10, 13, 20, 24, 27;  
April 7, 10, 17, 24;  
May 5, 8, 15, 19, 22, 29;  
June 2, 12, 16, 19, 26, 30;

**Time:** 8:30 am

**Cost:** Free

**Ages:** Adults

**Location:** CCP - These hikes meet in the north parking lot of Cool Creek Park, past the nature center.

**Pre-registration:** Not Required

### Strawtown Koteewi Park

**Dates:** March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5

**Time:** 8:30 am

**Cost:** Free

**Ages:** Adults

**Location:** SKP - These hikes meet in the parking lot of the Taylor Center of Natural History.

**Pre-registration:** Not Required

## American Woodcock Walk

Unusual, weird, romantic, and unique are all words used to describe the American Woodcock. Come experience this rite of spring for yourself as male woodcocks perform their aerial courtship displays for the females in the prairie at dusk! An indoor presentation will take place inside the Taylor Center for those interested in knowing more about the life history of this bird. Those interested in seeing the aerial display should meet the group inside the Taylor Center and will be led by a naturalist outside.

**Date:** Saturday, March 23

**Times:** Indoor Program portion at 7:30 pm

Outdoor Program portion begins at 8:00 pm

**Ages:** All

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** TCNH

**Pre-registration:** Not Required



## Saturday Morning Spring Migration Bird Hikes

Catch a peek at some beautiful birds as they make their return this spring. The hikes are led by well-known birder, Keith Starling. Hurry, some birds will not stay around long. After the hike, stop by the Nature Center's Wildlife Viewing Area for coffee and doughnuts. Don't forget your binoculars! Spring migration bird hikes meet in the north parking lot of Cool Creek Park.

**Dates:** April 20, April 27; May 4, 18, 25

**Time:** 8:00 am

**Ages:** All

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** CCP

**Pre-registration:** Not Required



## Spring Wildflower Walk

Walk with a naturalist along the wooded trails to enjoy the beautiful blossoms in the park. Don't miss out as these enchanting spring ephemerals show off their beauty for a limited time. Discover their ecological significance and other attributes such as edibility or medicinal values that make our wildflowers wonderful. This walk begins inside the nature center.

**Date:** Saturday, May 11

**Time:** 11:00 am

**Ages:** All

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** CCNC

**Pre-Registration:** Not Required



## Audubon May Bird Count

Volunteer to help the HCPR and Indiana Audubon Society as we count birds throughout our county. This annual count takes place on International Migratory Bird Day and the results are a valuable tool in tracking bird populations throughout the United States. Bird watchers of different skill levels will be paired together and assigned to various areas of the county. After the morning festivities, an optional lunch will be provided in the Cool Creek Nature Center.

**Date:** Saturday, May 11

**Time:** 8:00 am

**Ages:** All

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** County-wide

**Pre-registration:** Required.

Register by calling 317-774 -2500 or emailing [amanda.smith@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:amanda.smith@hamiltoncounty.in.gov).

## Rookery PreServe Programs

Join a naturalist at the Great Blue Heron Rookery in Hamilton County. We will meet and stay at the Stoops Observation Deck and discuss details about the park. We will spend the majority of the time watching and talking about the Great Blue Herons, who should be busily courting and tending their nests. You are encouraged to bring binoculars, spotting scopes, and photography equipment. Some equipment will be available.

**Dates:** Wednesday, March 28 at 3:30 pm

Saturday, April 6 at 8:00 am

Thursday, April 11 at 3:30 pm

Tuesday, April 16 at 1:00 pm

Monday, April 22, at 4:30 pm

Sunday, May 5 at 2:30 pm

Tuesday, May 14 at 3:30 pm

Saturday, May 25 at 9:00 am

Friday, June 1 at 1:00 pm

**Ages:** All

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** RP

**Pre-registration:** Preferred. Register by calling 317-774-2500 or emailing [amanda.smith@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:amanda.smith@hamiltoncounty.in.gov).

**Programs available upon request at the Rookery Preserve**  
Church groups, homeschoolers, nature clubs, scouts, American Heritage Girls, or any group can request a special program at the Rookery Preserve led by a naturalist! The best viewing times are March through May.

If you'd like to schedule your program, please email [amanda.smith@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:amanda.smith@hamiltoncounty.in.gov) or call 317-774-2500.

## National Trails and National Prairie Day Hike

It's National Trails Day & National Prairie Day! So where better to meet for a hike than Strawtown Koteewi Park? We have more than 400 acres of restored prairie and over nine miles of trails. Our hike will cover part of the park as we explore and learn about the plants and any wildlife we encounter while hiking the north loop. The hike is about two miles. Dress for the weather and bring your water.

**Date:** Saturday, June 1

**Time:** 10:00 am

**Ages:** All ages are welcome, but best for adults and older children

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** TCNH - meet inside

**Pre-registration:** Not Required

# Cool Creek Camps 2019



Registration is Saturday, March 9 beginning at 10:00 am.  
Registration details for the 2019 season are posted on our website  
[www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com).

Contact the Cool Creek Nature Center at 317-774-2500 with any questions.

## Summer Nature Programs - Save the Dates!

Hey kids! Here is your chance to explore Cool Creek and have some summertime fun. These one and a half hour programs will feature a craft, nature activity or game, and a performance by the camp staff. Each activity is related to the topic of the day. (Registration begins May 31.)

### Monday, July 1 / Trees

Trees are the biggest plants on the planet. Come and appreciate this mighty resource.

### Tuesday, July 2 / Insectamania

We've gotta give bugs hugs... it makes a world of difference. Discover the beauty in these cuddly critters.

### Wednesday, July 3 / Creek Stomp

The creek has so many cool critters to discover.  
Put on some old shoes and enjoy wonders in the water.

### Thursday, July 5 / Turtles!

Since before the dinosaurs, turtles roamed the world.  
Check out these amazing animals.

#### Times:

10:00 - 11:30 am

1:00 - 2:30 pm

Ages: 3 - 10

Cost: Free

Location: CCNC

**Pre-registration:** Required. Register by calling 317-774-2500 or emailing [cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov) beginning May 31.



## Be a Parks Volunteer!

Volunteering for Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department can be a fun and rewarding experience! Volunteer opportunities include general park upkeep, assisting with special events, helping with gardening, caring for the nature center's wildlife friends, greenhouse tending, landscaping, cleaning, socializing, educating and more. We welcome individuals and groups of all sizes and will work to find activities that are a good fit with your interests, skills and schedule.

Look for the volunteer symbol throughout this issue of *The Chatterbox* to find programs and events that offer volunteer activities, or contact us if you want to learn about other opportunities! To volunteer, please call 317-774-2509 or contact us at [volunteer@myhamiltoncountyparks.com](mailto:volunteer@myhamiltoncountyparks.com).

Guests to Strawtown Koteewi Park's unique Adventure Area should prepare for recreational activities that will excite, entertain, educate and encourage visits back to the park, time and time again. Whether riding trails atop majestic horses, mastering treetop courses 60' in the air, or sending an arrow skillfully toward its target at a blistering speed, these Adventure Area attractions will not only generate tons of heart-pounding excitement, they'll provide special memories that will last a lifetime!

The Adventure Area can be found along Koteewi Drive, off Essig Road, located on the eastern boundary of the park.

## Koteewi Aerial Adventure Treetop Trails

*Operated by Edge Adventures, Inc.*

Explore the woods in a whole new way! Five different treetop courses, from 16' to 60' high, offer a mix of elements and zip-lines, challenging ALL skill types. Enjoy adventures lasting from two to three hours. Spend your time differently throughout your visit and returning visits!

**SEASON OPENS May 4-5, 2019**

2-Hour Adventure: \$42 adult,  
\$32 child (8-12 years old)  
3-Hour Adventure: \$49 adult,  
\$39 child (8-12 years old)  
All Day Adventure: \$79  
per person (all ages)  
Special Group Pricing: Discounts  
for groups 10-19, 20+ or 50+  
Hours vary by season. For current hours,  
please visit [edgeadventureparks.com](http://edgeadventureparks.com),  
or our Facebook page,  
call 574-340-3215 or email  
[sally@edgeadventureparks.com](mailto:sally@edgeadventureparks.com).



*Operated by Edge Adventure Parks*

317-770-8845  
[edgeadventureparks.com](http://edgeadventureparks.com)  
Adventure Park Manager,  
Sally Burch



## K-Trails Equestrian Adventures

*Operated by K-Trails*

Fun, family adventure is the primary focus of K-Trails! A variety of trail ride experiences have been designed with your family in mind. Guests will be provided a demonstration covering the fundamentals in trail riding, a riding helmet and assigned a horse best suited for them. The basic trail ride is a ninety-minute experience. Longer rides and private family experiences are available. Riders must be 7 years old or older. Parent/grandparent-assisted pony rides are available for children younger than 7. Pony rides are available for guests with special needs requiring additional assistance.



K-Trails Equestrian  
Adventures  
11949 Koteewi Dr.,  
Noblesville, IN 46060  
317-770-8835

Book your reservations  
at [www.ktrails.com](http://www.ktrails.com).  
Hours vary by season. For current  
hours please visit our website or  
Facebook page.



**K | Trails**  
EQUESTRIAN ADVENTURES

317-770-8835  
[ktrails.com](http://ktrails.com)  
Operator, John Stewart  
[john@ktrails.com](mailto:john@ktrails.com)

## Koteewi Range Sport & Target Archery Center

*Operated by Tony Girt*

Start your archery adventure with us! Koteewi Range provides five special purpose ranges for all ages and levels of archery experience...from beginner to pro! Bring your own equipment or we'll rent you ours. Koteewi Range offers camps, classes, lessons, parties, team-building activities and archery tournaments.

**RANGE RATES**  
1 Hour on Target Range: \$10  
\$2 each additional hour  
Add \$8 for bow rental  
3D Trail: \$12  
Please call for annual  
membership,  
group and party rates.

**SEASONAL HOURS**  
Spring - Early Fall: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
7 days per week  
Late Fall - Winter: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
Thursdays - Sundays



*Operated by Tony Girt*

317-776-8472  
[koteewiarchery.com](http://koteewiarchery.com)  
Range Manager, Tony Girt  
[tonygirt@koteewiarchery.com](mailto:tonygirt@koteewiarchery.com)

# Park Programs

## Taylor Center of Natural History at Strawtown Koteewi Park

The Taylor Center of Natural History is open daily! Visitors are invited to discover the colorful local history that stretches thousands of years into the past. Artifacts recovered by professional archaeologists in previous excavations are on display in our exhibit room. More than nine miles of trails are open, so don't forget your hiking shoes and sense of adventure! Group tours or presentations can also be arranged by calling 317-774-2574.

**Hours:** Monday – Saturday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm • Sunday 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

**Cost:** Free

**PLEASE NOTE:** *Taylor Center is closed on April 19 and 21; May 7 and 27.*

## Strawtown Enclosure - Native American Village Tours

Our interpretive staff conducts tours of the Strawtown Enclosure, a Native American village that was inhabited over 700 years ago. During these tours we will discuss the Native Americans who built and used the enclosure and see some of the artifacts recovered by archaeologists. The tours begin inside the Taylor Center of Natural History and include a short stroll to the village site. For more information, please contact us at 317-774-2574.

**Dates:** Saturdays at 11:00 am  
Sundays at 2:00 pm

**NOTE:** *Tours will not be offered on April 21.*

## Put This in Your Pipe and Smoke It

While it is known today that using tobacco products can be very harmful to your health, tobacco has a long history of use in the Americas and its popularity quickly spread to Europe during the Age of Exploration. Both prehistoric and historic tobacco pipes are fascinating artifacts. Analysis of historic pipes has been used to interpret personal politics, socio-economic status, social affiliation, and other attributes of the individuals who owned them. And did you know that tobacco was grown right here in Hamilton County during

the mid to late 1800s? Come and join the TCNH staff for this introduction to the prehistoric and historic uses of tobacco and the resulting artifacts, some of which are from the artifact collections here at Taylor Center of Natural History.

**Date:** Saturday, March 23

**Time:** 2:00 pm

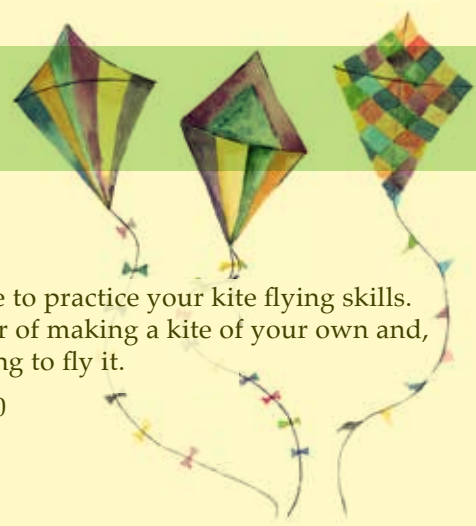
**Age:** Older children and adults

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** TCNH

**Pre-registration:** Preferred. Register by calling 317-774-2574 or emailing [taylor.center@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:taylor.center@hamiltoncounty.in.gov).

*Nicotiana rustica, commonly known as the tobacco plant*



## Preschool Story Hour

We hope all our preschool friends will join us for our monthly preschool story hour. Story hour includes a craft, activity and of course a story!

**Dates:** Thursday, March 14: Wind  
Thursday, April 11: Rainbows  
Thursday, May 9: Animal Moms  
Thursday, June 13: Animal Dads

**Time:** 11:00 am

**Ages:** Older preschoolers ages 3 to 5

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** TCNH

**Pre-registration:** Required. Register by calling 317-774-2574 or emailing [taylor.center@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:taylor.center@hamiltoncounty.in.gov).

## What Not to Grow

When considering what plants to include in your home landscaping plan, it might be helpful if you also had an idea of what plants not to plant! In this informative program geared towards homeowners, you will learn about invasive species and the impact they can have on our ecosystem. We have compiled a list of native plants to grow as alternatives to popular ornamental plants.

**Date:** Saturday, March 16

**Time:** 2:00 pm

**Ages:** Older children and adults

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** TCNH

**Pre-registration:** Preferred. Register by calling 317-774-2574 or emailing [taylor.center@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:taylor.center@hamiltoncounty.in.gov).

## Go Fly a Kite

Spring is the perfect time to practice your kite flying skills. Please join us for an hour of making a kite of your own and, weather permitting, trying to fly it.

**Date:** Saturday, March 30

**Time:** 2:00 pm

**Ages:** All

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** TCNH

**Pre-registration:** Required. Register by calling 317-774-2574 or emailing [taylor.center@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:taylor.center@hamiltoncounty.in.gov).

## White River Baseball Club Opening Game

Come root for our local team, the White River Baseball Club, as they take on Belle River during a vintage baseball "match." Meet some of the players before the game at our restored historic barn. Players will be at the barn to sign autographs and answer questions about vintage baseball. Our Victorian barn will remain open during the game for light snacks (peanuts, caramel corn and lemonade). A croquet set and other vintage games will be on hand in the barn during the game for your enjoyment. Please bring your own chairs and/or blankets to watch the game! Game time is at 1 pm; meet and greet is at 12 pm.

**Date:** Saturday, April 6

**Time:** 12:00 pm

**Ages:** All

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** Morris Barn

**Pre-registration:** Not Required

## Earth Day Fun

Our favorite day of the year is Earth Day! Join us as we celebrate with Earth Day-inspired crafts and activities. Community herbalist Greg Monzel of Wild Persimmon School of Wellness will have a station dedicated to identifying spring wildflowers and their uses. Our very own Regional Parks Director, Bruce Oldham, will also give a brief presentation describing his successes and challenges when managing the large prairie at Strawtown Koteewi Park.

**Date:** Saturday, April 20

**Time:** 1:00 - 3:00 pm

**Cost:** Free

**Ages:** All

**Location:** TCNH

**Pre-registration:** Not Required

## Indiana Archaeology Council Day

The Taylor Center of Natural History is pleased to partner with the Indiana Archaeology Council for this one-of-a-kind day of archaeology! The Indiana Archaeology Council invites the general public to attend a special day of lectures and hands-on learning supported by professional archaeologists from all around the state of Indiana. Tables supporting various archaeological topics will be set up around the Taylor Center of Natural History and guests are encouraged to visit with the experts. Lectures relating to a wide range of archaeological topics will take place in the classroom. This is your chance to mingle with the experts and help us celebrate and support the professional archaeological community in Indiana.

**Date:** Saturday, May 18

**Time:** 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

**Ages:** Older children and adults

**Cost:** \$5 donation to Indiana Archaeology Council

**Location:** TCNH

**Pre-registration:** Required. Register by calling 317-774-2576 or emailing [christy.brocken@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:christy.brocken@hamiltoncounty.in.gov).



## Salamander Saturday

Did you know there is a day set aside every year to celebrate the super cool salamander? We invite you to partake in Salamander Saturday at Strawtown Koteewi Park. Meet our park salamander, learn about native Indiana salamanders and visit our salamander boards to learn about how wildlife experts study this elusive population. We are also excited to welcome Jenny Sutherland from the Aquaculture Research Laboratory located at Purdue University, Department of Forestry and Natural Resources for this program.

**Date:** Saturday, May 4

**Time:** 1:00 - 3:00 pm

**Ages:** All

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** TCNH

**Pre-registration:** Not Required

## World Turtle Day

Drop by the Taylor Center of Natural History to celebrate World Turtle Day. Meet some of our turtle ambassadors, do a turtle-related craft, and

learn how you can help protect our native species!

**Date:** Thursday, May 23

**Time:** 1:00 - 3:00 pm

**Ages:** All

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** TCNH

**Pre-registration:** Not Required

## Mother's Day Wreath-Making

Moms and children (of all ages), come spend an hour with us making a wreath just in time for Mother's Day! Each participant will make a beautiful wreath to take home and admire while spending quality time with Mom! What more could a mother want?

**Date:** Saturday, May 11

**Time:** 1:00 - 2:00 pm

**Ages:** Older children and adults

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** TCNH

**Pre-registration:** Required. Register by calling 317-774-2574 or emailing [taylor.center@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:taylor.center@hamiltoncounty.in.gov).

## Summer Solstice Celebration

Join TCNH for an evening of sidewalk chalk art, a naturalist-led night hike, summer-inspired games and crafts, and a lemonade bar! Hike begins at 8:00 pm at the Taylor Center of Natural History. Sunset is at 9:16 pm.

**Date:** Friday, June 21

**Time:** 7:00 - 9:30 pm

**Ages:** All

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** TCNH

**Pre-Registration:** Not Required



## Maple Syrup Program at Bray Family HomeStead Park

Cool nights and warm days are arriving, which gets the sap a'flowing. The staff will be demonstrating making maple syrup, and continue the Bray Family tradition on the property, which began more than 150 years ago. Traditional and modern equipment will be used to make syrup as well as information regarding the folklore, history, and science about maple trees. During the tour, visitors will leisurely rotate through the Maple Grove, History Hut, Sugar Shack, and Sugar Shop - which takes about an hour.

Dragonwood Maple Syrup will be onsite with their locally produced maple products. Other vendors will also be present with snacks and treats for purchase. Folksy musical entertainment will be provided for the enjoyment of guests.

Enter the park from the Hinkle Road parking lot. Groups will be picked up by our wagon and transported to the first station. Dress for the weather and potentially muddy conditions. Wagon picks-ups are approximately every twenty minutes.



**Date:** Saturday, March 2

**Time:** 10:00 am - 3:00 pm (tours start approximately every twenty minutes and take about one hour)

**Ages:** All

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** BFHP

**Pre-registration:** Not Required



## Wetland Wildflower Walk

Wetlands once covered millions of acres in Indiana before human activity led to an 85% reduction today. On this hike with herbalist Greg Monzel of Wild Persimmon School of Wellness, we'll wander along the edges of a conserved wetland habitat, and discover the unique plants growing there. We will discuss the importance of these plants to foragers, herbalists and the ecological community, while treading lightly to minimize our impact on this important natural area.

**Date:** June 29

**Time:** 1:00 - 4:00 pm

**Ages:** Older children and adults

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** TCNH

**Pre-registration:** Required. Register by calling 317-774-2574 or emailing [taylor.center@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:taylor.center@hamiltoncounty.in.gov).

## Visit the Three Sisters Garden

Join our interpretive gardener Thursdays during the productive growing season as we share the successes and challenges in our Native American Three Sisters Garden.

**Dates:** Thursday: June 6, 13, 20, 27

July 4, 11, 18, 25

August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

**Time:** 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

**Ages:** All

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** TCNH

**Pre-registration:** Not Required

**Garden Preparation for our education gardens – Volunteer call out**

Three Sisters Garden - May 18

Pumpkin Garden Patch - June 1



## Volunteer Spotlight: Hailey Townsend

Hailey Townsend recently completed an internship with Hamilton County Parks and Recreation. Hailey provided more than 260 hours of volunteer service by helping with administrative tasks, social media, events and large-scale park improvement projects, among other things.

Hailey says she really enjoyed her internship and felt like she was able to contribute and learn about several different aspects of the parks department. She's hopeful these experiences will help in her pursuit of full-time employment in recreation or leisure management.



We would like to congratulate Hailey on her graduation from IU-Kokomo and thank her for her service with Hamilton County Parks and Recreation!

If you or someone you know is interested in an internship with Hamilton County Parks and Recreation or learning more about any of our volunteer opportunities, please contact us at [volunteer@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:volunteer@hamiltoncounty.in.gov) or 317-774-2509.



## Cool Creek Campfires

Join us around the Cool Creek campfire ring for songs, presentations, and marshmallows. Cindy Baney, music educator with Moriah Music, will start the evening off with music. Special speakers will then entertain guests each week with topics about snakes, birds, turtles, and more. Hang out with your family and friends during these special Wednesday evenings. Don't forget to bring your lawn chairs or blankets.

**Dates:** June 5, 12, 19, 26; July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

**Time:** 7:00 pm

**Ages:** All

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** CCP (north side of the park)

**Pre-registration:** Not Required



### Amazing World of Animals / June 5

Animals from all over the world will be at our campfire ring. Larry Battson, wildlife educator and handler, will talk to us about animal lives, conservation, and more.

### Birds of Prey / June 12

Take Flight Wildlife Education's Mark Booth will bring several birds of prey to share with the audience. Hawks, owls, and kestrels are just a few of the amazing birds that prey on small animals and examples of what Booth will have for the audience!

### Nocturnal Animals / June 19

Indiana WILD will join us for a program all about animals of the night! These highly adaptive nocturnal creatures are as interesting as they are unusual!

### Snakes with Ed-THE BIG ONES / June 26

Ed will bring lots of snakes to show the audience. He will dispel many of the myths people have about these fascinating creatures.

### All-American Animals / July 3

Celebrate our country's birthday with Coyote Chris of Silly Safaris. Animals that get us excited about our independence will be featured!

### Indiana Jim: Reptile Experience / July 10

Indiana Jim's wide assortment of reptiles and amphibians are sure to surprise, teach, fascinate, and intrigue you!

### Baby! It's Wild Outside / July 17

Utopia Wildlife Rehabilitators will talk with us about the do's and don'ts of wildlife that we might encounter in our communities. Some of their own rehabilitated animals will be on hand to help us understand when our help is needed and when it is harmful for wildlife...and us!

### Reptiles with Rex Morrell / July 24

Welcome first time campfire presenter, Rex Morrell and his famous Monitor lizard, "Squishy" and many of her reptile friends to the park. Rex will be bringing some of his largest and most charismatic reptiles to share with the audience!

### REALLY Dangerous Animals / July 31

Amazon John with Silly Safaris is back with some REALLY DANGEROUS ANIMALS! Be sure to make it to this exhilarating show.



## Back by Popular Demand - Posh Picnic!

Once again, guests are invited to enjoy a special evening outdoors on the front lawn of Coxhall Mansion. This fun-filled fundraiser includes a challenge for each table of guests to design their own tablescape with themed place settings (three prizes will be awarded for elegance, originality, and "funk,"). Participants are to bring a picnic dinner and drinks. Activities also include dancing to the music of *Free but Not Cheap*, and an exciting raffle. Proceeds will go towards building an outdoor covered classroom and picnic area in the Children's Garden, with a surrounding butterfly and hummingbird garden on the stately grounds of Coxhall Gardens.

Transportation will be provided from the parking lot to and from the picnic area to help guests with picnic items. Tables for eight or ten guests will be provided, along with white tablecloths.

Please join us for this wonderful and worthwhile cause  
AND start your tablescape theme planning now!



*Guests enjoying last year's popular Posh Picnic activities.*

**Date:** Saturday, June 15, 2019

**Time:** 7:00 - 11:00 pm

**Ages:** Adults only, please

**Cost:** \$50.00 per person  
\$350 for a table of eight  
\$425 for a table of ten

**Location:** CHG - Coxhall Mansion Lawn - Signage will direct guests to the Posh Picnic site.

**Reservation: Required, by June 7, 2019.** Contact John Scott Foster, Friends Executive Director, at [johnscottfoster@friendshcp.org](mailto:johnscottfoster@friendshcp.org) for reservations and complete event details. You may also contact Sharon Terry, Coxhall Guild President, at 317-840-9440 or [sharonterry@gmail.com](mailto:sharonterry@gmail.com), or Jody McFarland, at 317-337-0838 or [jmm3500@SBCglobal.net](mailto:jmm3500@SBCglobal.net).

## Nature Trunks on Loan at the Cool Creek Nature Center



We have five trunks available for area educators to use as an additional resource for their classes! These kits make a great addition to any classroom or program that focuses on Indiana wildlife. Educators including scout leaders, teachers, and home-school families are all eligible to borrow the trunks.

### The trunks available are:

**The Wildlife Trunk** consists of a variety of native skulls/bones, shells, skins, mounts, track molds and cards.

**The Tree-mendous Tree Trunk** includes many books, field guides, lesson plans, activity ideas, movies, wood samples and posters.

**The Fur File** includes fifteen real mammal furs with corresponding fact cards, additional lesson plans and resources for educators.

**The Bird Trunk** includes bird skulls, silhouettes, bird books, and other bird-related education materials.

**The Go FishIN' Kit** contains reels, fishing tackle, games and related literature to teach others how to go fishing.

To check on the trunks' availability for your up and coming programs, contact Holly Faust at 317-774-2500 or email [holly.faust@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:holly.faust@hamiltoncounty.in.gov). There is no charge to borrow the trunks.

# Help your friends. Help Yourself!

## Friends of Hamilton County Parks

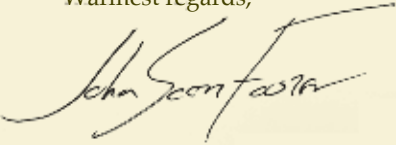
I am writing to invite you to make a donation to the Friends of Hamilton County Parks. This will help us ensure that you, your children, and your grandchildren continue to have access to the great parks that we need and deserve. Parks are more than a nicety; they are a necessity. Your parks make significant, positive impacts throughout our community every day. Here are a few ways that is happening:

1. **Koteewi Run, Seasonal Slopes tubing hill at Strawtown Koteewi Park** opened to rave reviews last winter. The project was made possible through public/private partnerships. This new attraction drew 7,000 guests in its first season of operation.
2. **6,000 school children** from public, private, and parochial schools across Hamilton County participated in a field trip at Cool Creek Nature Center or Strawtown Koteewi Park, free of charge, in 2018.
3. **Preservation of hundreds of acres of prairie habitat** provides critical habitat for monarch butterflies as well as an amazing diversity of pollinators and birds.
4. **The recently completed 20-acre lake** at Strawtown Koteewi Park will open in 2019, providing a relaxing venue for fishing and wildlife observation (see photo below).

Hamilton County is growing rapidly, with nearly 8,000 new residents in 2017. Our amazing parks, from Coxhall Gardens to the Monon Trail, are part of what attracts people and businesses to this area. We need to continue to ensure our parks remain vibrant and attractive and that new parks are identified and developed to match the needs of our growing population.

Ideas for projects to improve our parks are identified faster than our local governments have the time or resources to bring them to reality. Only the philanthropic support of businesses and community members make it possible. Your donation to our annual sustaining campaign helps underwrite the costs of running the organization and allows us to focus on exciting new additions to your parks. I encourage you to make a donation to the Friends of Hamilton County Parks. Go on line at [friendsofhamiltoncountyparks.org](http://friendsofhamiltoncountyparks.org) to make your donation.

Warmest regards,



John Scott Foster, PhD  
Executive Director

P.S. Want to get together to talk about parks, the Friends and our plans for the future?  
Contact me at 317.750.6198 or at [johnscottfoster@friendsfhcp.org](mailto:johnscottfoster@friendsfhcp.org).



Sharon Terry, Ex-officio,  
Coxhall Guild President

Bruce Snyder

Lisa Allen

Ryan Fuhrman

Jill Sweet Mead

Muniver Singh

Jan DeJarnatt

John Terry

Todd Irwin

Jennifer Roberts

Dan Lawson

John Scott Foster, PhD



*Koteewi Lake Recreational Waters opens this summer.*

	showers	beach	boat dock	fishing	canoe launch	music pavilion	picnic tables	picnic shelters	restrooms	playground	archery	disc golf	soccer field	baseball/softball	basketball court	volleyball	bicycling	greenspace	nature trail	paved trail	equestrian trail	camping	wetland/prairie	
1. <b>Administration Office</b> 15513 S. Union Street, Carmel																								(317) 770-4400
2. <b>Bray Family Homestead Park (BFHP)</b> 4528 Sheridan Ave, Noblesville																		●	●					(317) 770-4400
3. <b>Cool Creek Park (CCP)/(CCNC)</b> 2000 E. 151 <sup>st</sup> Street, Carmel					●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●		●	●	●				●		(317) 774-2500
4. <b>Coxhall Gardens (CHG)</b> 116th Street & Towne Road, Carmel			●		●			●	●						●	●	●	●				●		(317) 774-2582
5. <b>Geist Park (GP)</b> 10979 Florida Road, Fortville			●	●		●	●	●	●								●	●				●		(317) 770-4400
6. <b>Lafayette Trace Park (LTP)</b> 15796 E. Strawtown Ave, Noblesville			●	●													●							(317) 770-4400
7. <b>Monon Trail</b> From W. 216 <sup>th</sup> St. to Lamong Rd., Sheridan															●				●					
8. <b>Morse Park &amp; Beach (MPB)</b> 19777 Morse Park Lane, Noblesville	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●		●		●		●	●	●	●						(317) 770-4400
9. <b>Potter's Bridge Park (PBP)</b> 19401 N. Allisonville Road, Noblesville			●	●		●	●	●	●						●	●	●	●						(317) 770-4400
10. <b>River Road Park (RRP)</b> 12575 River Road, Carmel			●	●				●	●						●	●	●	●				●		(317) 770-4400
11. <b>Riverwood Canoe Landing (RCL)</b> 20814 Riverwood Ave, Noblesville			●	●																				(317) 770-4400
12. <b>Rookery Preserve (RP)</b> 25440 Scherer Ave, Arcadia																	●							(317) 770-4400
13. <b>Strawtown Koteewi Park (SKP)/(TCNH)</b> 12308 Strawtown Ave, Noblesville			●	●						●					●	●	●	●		●		●		(317) 774-2574
14. <b>White River Campground (WRCG)</b> 11299 E. 234 <sup>th</sup> Street, Cicero	●		●	●		●	●	●	●						●	●	●				●			(317) 770-4430

**SAVE THE DATE**

**FOR ON PAR PARKS**

**TOURNAMENT**

**SEPTEMBER 16, 2019**

*Crooked Stick Golf Club*

**BENEFITTING**

**FRIENDS OF HAMILTON COUNTY PARKS**



# White River Campground

**Operating Dates:** April 15 - October 31, 2019

**Location:** 11299 East 234th Street, Cicero, IN 46034

**Amenities:**

- 100 modern campsites
- 7 primitive campsites
- water, electric & sewer hook-ups
- camp store, includes bait and tackle
- recreation room
- restrooms/shower facility
- laundry facility
- playground
- picnic shelter
- White River access
- WiFi
- historic bridges connecting guests to Strawtown Koteewi Park and the Adventure Area

Reservations are accepted 365 days in advance. Please call 317-770-4430 to make your reservation...today!  
**SORRY – NO REFUNDS.**

CAMPSITE/FACILITY	DAILY		WEEKLY	
	Hamilton County	Out of County	Hamilton County	Out of County
Full Hook-up	\$25	\$30	\$130	\$150
Electric and Water	\$20	\$25	\$120	\$130
Primitive Site	\$15	\$20	\$100	\$120
Day Visitor	FREE	FREE	/	/
Recreation Room Rental	\$60	\$80	/	/
Shelter House Rental	\$60	\$80	/	/
Boat Launch	\$3	\$5	/	/
Dump Station	\$5	\$8	/	/

## Morse Park Summer Triathlon and Duathlon

The annual Morse Park Summer Triathlon will take place on Saturday, June 29, 2019. The popular event consists of a 600-yard swim, 15-mile bike and a 3-mile run. Also offered is a duathlon for those not wishing to swim, that consists of a 2-mile run, 15-mile bike and 3-mile run. Relay team format is also available.

**Date:** Saturday, June 29  
**Time:** 8:00 am (start time)  
**Cost:** Ranges from \$50 to \$75  
**Location:** MPB



19777 Morse Park Lane, Noblesville IN 46060

**Registration and Information:**  
[www.tuxbro.com](http://www.tuxbro.com) or 317-733-3300

PRESENTED BY



## Family Fun Times!

### WHITE RIVER CAMPGROUND 2019

Throughout the 2019 season, White River Campground will offer quality entertainment and activities that are designed to add to the enjoyment of the camping experience for the entire family! For specific details regarding the following campground events and programming, please call 317-770-4430.

Friday **April 15** // Opening Day at WRC

Saturday **April 26** // Arbor Day Tree Giveaway

Saturday **May 25** // Memorial Weekend Entertainment

Saturday **June 22** // Kids Fishing Tournament

Saturday **July 6** // Fourth of July Entertainment

Saturday **July 20** // Kids Day Magic Show

Saturday **Aug 3** // Family Fun Day - TBD

Saturday **Aug 31** // Labor Day Weekend Entertainment

Saturday **Sept 14** // Family Fun Day - TBD

Saturday **Oct 5** // WRC Halloween Festivities

Saturday **Oct 12** // Year End Pitch-In Dinner

Saturday **Oct 31** // Closing for the Season



Hamilton County Parks and the Friends of Hamilton County Parks thank these corporate partners who support us in our efforts to provide quality parks, facilities, nature education, programs and recreation to our community.



# Park Rentals

## Osprey Pointe Pavilion

Planning a shower, wedding reception, or any other special event? Our indoor rental facility at Morse Park and Beach offers a lodge-like setting and is available for private functions. Osprey Pointe is located on the banks of Morse Reservoir with a scenic view. The facility's seating capacity is 101 people and features a kitchenette and restrooms.

<b>Facility Rental Rate:</b>	\$160.50 for 4 hours
<b>Non-resident Rate:</b>	\$240.75 for 4 hours
<b>Additional Hours:</b>	\$42.80 per hour
<b>Damage Deposit:</b>	\$100
<b>Alcohol Deposit:</b>	\$400

Rental rates include an on-site security guard and use of all tables and chairs.



## Coxhall Gardens Centerpiece and Cripe Pavilion

Looking for a beautiful and serene location to hold your upcoming wedding and reception? The Coxhall Gardens Centerpiece and Cripe Pavilion are now ready to rent for weddings, wedding receptions, and any other special event you may have on your calendar. Rental is available from April through October.

For more information and to rent this facility, please call **Ritz Charles** at 317-846-9158 or visit [ritzcharles.com](http://ritzcharles.com).

## Cool Creek Nature Center Auditorium

For a uniquely natural event venue, consider the Cool Creek Nature Center Auditorium. The auditorium's capacity is 140. Alcohol is prohibited and a contract is required. Call 317-774-2500 for rates, availability and complete details.

<b>Cool Creek Park</b>	<b>Shelter Size</b>	<b>County Resident</b>	<b>Non-County Resident</b>
Shelters A,B,C,D	20' x 30'	\$53.50	\$85.60

- Grill located at each shelter.
- Shelters hold approximately 50 people.

<b>Geist Park</b>	<b>Shelter Size</b>	<b>County Resident</b>	<b>Non-County Resident</b>
Shelter	20' x 30'	\$53.50	\$85.60

- Grill located at each shelter.
- Shelters hold approximately 50 people.

<b>Morse Park and Beach</b>	<b>Shelter Size</b>	<b>County Resident</b>	<b>Non-County Resident</b>
Shelters A,C,D	20' x 30'	\$53.50	\$85.60
Shelter B	30' x 40'	\$107.00	\$149.80

- Grill located at each shelter
- Shelters A,C,D hold approximately 50 people.
- Shelter B holds approximately 100 people.

## Park Shelters

Looking for a place to have a picnic and enjoy your summer? Our affordable picnic shelters are a perfect place to have a get-together! Shelter rental is available from May 1<sup>st</sup> until September 30<sup>th</sup>.

- Shelter rentals are for all-day use.
- No refunds
- Cash, check, money order, and all major credit cards

**Please call 317-770-4400 for rental information.**



## Coxhall Mansion Tours

Hamilton County Parks is offering guided tours of the Coxhall Mansion and Museum, located on the stately grounds of Coxhall Gardens. The tours cover the history of the mansion, the grounds and the Cox family, as well as others that played a role in the creation of one of Hamilton County's most prestigious residences. Guided tours are free, but registration is required.

**Dates/Times:** Tues., March 12 – 10 am  
Wed., April 10 – 5 pm  
Thurs., May 16 – 10 am  
Tues., June 11 – 5 pm

**Ages:** All are welcome, but the 2-hour tour is not conducive for young children.

**Cost:** Free

**Pre-registration:** Required.

Register by calling 317-770-4400.

### KEY

Su – Sunday	Bray Family Homestead Park (BFHP)
M – Monday	Cool Creek Nature Center (CCNC)
Tu – Tuesday	Cool Creek Park (CCP)
Tu – Tuesday	Coxhall Gardens (CHG)
W – Wednesday	Geist Park (GP)
Th – Thursday	Lafayette Trace Park (LTP)
Th – Thursday	Morse Park & Beach (MPB)
F – Friday	Potter's Bridge Park (PBP)
F – Friday	River Road Park (RRP)
Sa – Saturday	Riverwood Canoe Landing (RCL)
Sa – Saturday	Rookery Preserve (RP)
Sa – Saturday	Strawtown Koteewi Park (SKP)
Sa – Saturday	Taylor Center of Natural History (TCNH)
Sa – Saturday	White River Campground (WRCG)

ADA Notice: Hamilton County, will upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so that they can participate equally in Hamilton County's public meetings. For special accommodations for a meeting contact the ADA Facilities Coordinator/Safety & Risk Manager at (317-770-1976) or [dan.papineau@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:dan.papineau@hamiltoncounty.in.gov) at least two (2) business days prior to the scheduled meeting or event to request an accommodation. Hamilton County Parks and Recreation is committed to accommodating all individuals with special needs. If assistance is required at any county park event, program or facility, please contact the administrative office in advance at 317-770-4400.

## March

- F 1** Homeschool Maple Syrup Program  
10am - BFHP
- Sa 2** a. Maple Madness – 10am - BFHP  
b. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH
- Su 3** Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH
- W 6** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – SKP  
b. Storytime at Cool Creek Park – 10:30 am – CCNC
- F 8** Pajama-Rama – 7pm – CCNC
- Sa 9** a. Camp Registration Day – 10am – online  
b. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH
- Su 10** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP  
b. Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH
- Tu 12** Coxhall Mansion Tour – 10am – CHG
- W 13** Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
- Th 14** Preschool Story Hour (Wind) – 11:00am TCNH
- Sa 16** a. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH  
b. What Not to Grow – 2pm - TCNH
- Su 17** Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH
- M 18** Spring on a Wing Exhibit Opens – CCNC
- T 19** Homeschool Hikers: Nature Journaling  
1pm – CCNC
- W 20** Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
- Th 21** Coxhall Children's Garden Tour – 11am – CHG
- F 22** World Water Day Homeschool Program – 1pm – CCNC
- Sa 23** a. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH  
b. Put This in Your Pipe and Smoke It – 2pm - TCNH  
c. American Woodcock Walk – 7:30pm TCNH
- Su 24** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP  
b. Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH
- W 27** Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
- Th 28** Rookery Preserve Program – 3:30pm – RP
- F 29** Celebrate Spring with Silly Safaris – 11am – CCNC
- Sa 30** a. Enclosure Tour - 11am – TCNH  
b. Go Fly A Kite - 2pm – TCNH
- Su 31** Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH

## April

- W 3** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – SKP  
b. Spring Break Program: Animals in Your Backyard – 11am – CCNC
- Th 4** Spring Break Program: Rainforest Animals  
11am – CCNC
- F 5** a. Spring Break Program: Hoosier Owls – 11am – CCNC  
b. Pajama-Rama – 7pm – CCNC
- Sa 6** a. Rookery Preserve Program – 8am – RP  
b. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH  
c. White River Baseball Club Opening Game – 12pm – TCNH (Morris Barn)
- Su 7** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP  
b. Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH
- W 10** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP  
b. Coxhall Mansion Tour – 5pm – CHG
- Th 11** a. Preschool Story Hour (Rainbows) – 11:00am – TCNH  
b. Rookery Preserve Program – 3:30pm – RP
- Sa 13** Rookery Preserve Program – 1pm – RP
- Su 14** Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH
- M 15** Opening Day – WRCG
- T 16** Rookery Program and Homeschool Hikers: Great Blue Herons are Nesting  
1pm – RP
- W 17** Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
- Th 18** Coxhall Children's Garden Tour – 11am – CHG
- F 19** Good Friday – Facilities Closed
- Sa 20** a. Spring Migration Bird Hike – 8am – CCP  
b. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH  
c. Earth Day Fun – 1pm – TCNH
- Su 21** Easter – Facilities Closed
- M 22** Rookery Preserve Program – 4:30pm – RP
- W 24** Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
- F 26** Arbor Day Tree Giveaway – WRCG
- Sa 27** a. Spring Migration Bird Hike – 8am – CCP  
b. Earth and Arbor Day Celebration – 10am – CCNC  
c. "The Lorax" Reading – 10am – CCNC  
d. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH  
e. Spring Wildflower Walk – 11am – CCNC  
f. Native Pollinator Hike – 1pm – CCNC
- Su 28** Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH

# May

- W 1** Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – SKP
- F 3** Pajama-Rama – 7pm – CCNC
- Sa 4** a. Spring Migration Bird Hike – 8am – CCP  
b. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH  
c. Salamander Saturday – 1pm – TCNH
- Su 5** a. Beginning Bird Hike- 8:30am – CCP  
b. Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH  
c. Rookery Preserve Program – 2:30pm – RP
- Tu 7** Election Day – Facilities Closed
- W 8** Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
- Th 9** Preschool Story Hour (Animal Moms) – 11am – TCNH
- Sa 11** a. Audubon May Bird Count – 8am – CCNC  
b. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH  
c. Spring Wildflower Walk – 11am – CCNC  
d. Wreath-Making – 1pm – TCNH
- Su 12** Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH
- Tu 14** Rookery Preserve Program – 3:30pm – RP
- W 15** Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
- Th 16** a. Coxhall Mansion Tour – 10am – CHG  
b. Coxhall Children's Garden Tour – 11am – CHG
- Sa 18** a. Spring Migration Bird Hike – 8am – CCP  
b. Indiana Archaeology Council Day – 10am – TCNH  
c. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH
- Su 19** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP  
b. Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH
- W 22** Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
- Th 23** World Turtle Day Program – 1pm – TCNH
- Sa 25** a. Spring Migration Bird Hike – 8am – CCP  
b. Rookery Reserve Program – 9am – RP  
c. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH  
d. Memorial Weekend Entertainment – WRCCG
- Su 26** Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH
- M 27** Memorial Day – Facilities Closed
- W 29** Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
- F 31** Summer Nature Program Registration

# June

- Sa 1** a. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH  
b. National Trails Day Hike – 10am – CCP  
c. Rookery Preserve Program – 1pm – RP
- Su 2** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP  
b. Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TNCH

- W 5** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – SKP  
b. Campfire Program: Amazing World of Animals – 7pm – CCP
- Th 6** Visit the Three Sisters Garden – 10am – TCNH
- F 7** Pajama-Rama – 7pm – CCNC
- Sa 8** Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH
- Su 9** Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TNCH
- M 10** a. Explorer Safari Camp Session 1 begins 9:30am – CCNC  
b. Nature Play Day at Cool Creek Park – 10am – CCP (Nature Play Area)  
c. Explorer Safari Camp Session 2 begins 1pm – CCNC
- T 11** a. Nature Play Day at River Road Park – 10am – RRP (Meet at restrooms)  
b. Coxhall Mansion Tour – 5pm – CHG
- W 12** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP  
b. Campfire Program (Birds of Prey) – 7pm – CCP
- Th 13** a. Nature Play Day at Geist Park – 10am – GP (Meet at playground)  
b. Visit the Three Sisters Garden – 10am – TCNH  
c. Preschool Story Hour (Animal Dads) – 11am – TCNH
- F 14** a. Nature Play Day at Potter's Bridge Park – 10am – PBP (Meet at playground)  
b. Cool Creek Concert Series – Polkaboy – 7pm – CCP
- Sa 15** a. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH  
b. Posh Picnic – 7pm – CHG
- Su 16** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP  
b. Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH
- M 17** a. Summer Sense-ations Exhibit Opens – CCNC  
b. Ranger Adventure Camp Session 1 begins – 10am – CCNC
- W 19** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP  
b. Campfire Program (Nocturnal Animals) – 7pm – CCP
- Th 20** a. Visit the Three Sisters Garden – 10am – TCNH  
b. Coxhall Children's Garden Tour – 11am – CHG
- F 21** a. Cool Creek Concert Series – Jennie DeVoe – 7pm – CCP  
b. Summer Solstice Celebration – 7pm – TCNH
- Sa 22** a. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH  
b. Kid's Fishing Tournament – WRCCG
- Su 23** Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH
- M 24** Junior Outdoor Skills Camp Session 1 begins – 10am – CCNC

# Calendar 2019

- W 26** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP  
b. Campfire Program (Snakes) – 7pm – CCP
- Th 27** Visit the Three Sisters Garden – 10am – TCNH
- F 28** a. Visit the Three Sisters Garden – 10am – TCNH  
b. Cool Creek Concert Series – Duke Tumatoe – 7pm – CCP
- Sa 29** a. Morse Park Triathlon – 8am – MPB  
b. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH  
c. Wetland Wildflower Walk – 1pm – TCNH
- Su 30** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP  
b. Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH

## Free Assistance from the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District

Clean water, pollinator habitat, healthy yards and more – sustainability starts at home, church, school, homeowners association, and other common areas! Free assistance is available to Hamilton County landowners to make your property more sustainable and beautiful at the same time. Financial assistance may be available to make your project a reality. Contact Claire Lane at the Hamilton County SWCD to learn more about the Backyard Conservation Program and projects like rain gardens, tree plantings, drainage solutions, pollinator gardens and more. Email [claire.lane@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:claire.lane@hamiltoncounty.in.gov), call 317-773-2181 or visit [www.hamiltonswcd.org](http://www.hamiltonswcd.org) to learn more.





Hamilton County Parks and Recreation  
15513 South Union Street  
Carmel, Indiana 46033

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If you would like to be added or removed from the list, please call 317-770-4400 or email [hamilton.parks@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:hamilton.parks@hamiltoncounty.in.gov) or visit [www.enfront.com/HamiltonCountyParks](http://www.enfront.com/HamiltonCountyParks).

If the name shown on the address is incorrect or NOT the intended recipient, please contact us at 317-770-4400 and let us know. We'll update our list and send you YOUR free *Chatterbox*.

.....  
The park staff will occasionally take pictures of participants at our parks, programs, and special events. Photos may be used in future publications or online for communication purposes. If you do not want your picture taken, please inform the photographer.



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25 YEARS!**



presents



**Select Fridays at 7pm**  
**Gates open at 6pm**

Adults - \$5 | Discount season passes!  
12 & Under - Free | Call 317-770-4400 for details.

Cool Creek Park, 2000 East 151st Street, Carmel/Westfield

**Friday, June 14**  
**Polkaboy**  
[polkaboy.com](http://polkaboy.com)

**Friday, June 21**  
**Jennie DeVoe**  
[jenniedevoe.com](http://jenniedevoe.com)

**Friday, June 28**  
**Duke Tumatoe and the Power Trio**  
[duketumatoe.com](http://duketumatoe.com)

**Friday, July 12**  
**The Flying Toasters**  
[theflyingtoasters.com](http://theflyingtoasters.com)

**Friday, July 19**  
**Dave & Rae**  
[daveandrae.com](http://daveandrae.com)

**Friday, August 2**  
**45 RPM**  
[the45rpmband.com](http://the45rpmband.com)

